AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, 11, and 21, and add new claims 31-39 as set forth below. Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of ~~producing and~~ delivering streams of content, the method comprising:

periodically querying a database for ~~a~~ multiple playlists~~playlist for each of a plurality of stations~~, wherein each playlist is associated with multiple content items~~, wherein the content includes multiple tracks~~;

receiving the multiple playlists from the database based upon the periodic querying;

analyzing each of the received multiple playlists to determine content items that ~~is~~ are already cached on a local disk, and content ~~that needs~~ items to be retrieved from a content source;

retrieving the content ~~that needs~~ items to be retrieved for each of the received playlists from the content source;

caching the retrieved content items on the local disk;

for each ~~of the stations~~ playlist, concatenating content items associated with ~~a~~ the playlist ~~corresponding to the station~~ into a stream of content;

~~for each of the stations, providing a buffer of a plurality of buffers with the stream of content corresponding to the station;~~

upon receiving a request for one or more of the streams of content, transmitting the requested one or more streams of ~~the~~ content ~~from one or more of the plurality of buffers~~ to at least one distribution point for relaying to at least one client terminal; and

in response to a disruption in the retrieval from the content source of content items associated with a first playlist ~~corresponding to a first station~~, wherein a first stream of content corresponds to the first ~~station~~ playlist:

continuing to advance throuqh ~~tracks~~ content items of the first playlist;

copying a first ~~track~~ content item of the first playlist from the local disk to a memory cache prior to reaching a last track of the first playlist;

linking the last ~~track~~ content item of the first playlist to the first ~~track~~ content item of the first playlist to loop at least some of the ~~tracks~~ content items of the first playlist in the first stream of content; and

transmitting the first stream of content containing the looped ~~tracks~~ content items of the first playlist to the at least one distribution point for relaying to the at least one client terminal.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

checking for new ~~tracks~~ content items of the first playlist as transmission of each of the ~~tracks~~ content items of the first playlist finishes; and

~~when~~ if there are new ~~tracks~~ content items of the first playlist, resuming normal transmission of the first stream of content.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple ~~tracks~~ content items include audio content.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple ~~tracks~~ content items include video content.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing metadata associated with the content; and

integrating the metadata with at least one of the one or more streams of content.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the metadata includes content duration information.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the metadata includes content time remaining information.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one client terminal includes at least one of a computer, a mobile device, a microprocessor-based device, a portable digital assistant, and a network enabled receiver.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the requested one or more streams of content is transmitted at a rate that is matched to a rate of play at the at least one client terminal.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of ~~producing and~~ delivering streams of content, the method comprising:

periodically querying a database for multiple playlists ~~corresponding to multiple stations~~, wherein a playlist is associated with multiple items of content;

receiving the multiple playlists from the database;

analyzing the received multiple playlists to determine items of content that are already locally cached, and items of content to be retrieved;

retrieving items of content to be retrieved;

locally storing the retrieved items of content;

for at least a first ~~station~~playlist, concatenating associated items of content into a first stream ~~based on a first playlist corresponding to the first stations~~;

~~for at least the first stations, providing one or more buffers with the first stream;~~

upon receiving a request for the first stream, delivering the first stream ~~from the one or more buffers~~ to at least one distribution point for delivery to at least one client terminal; and

~~when~~if retrieval of new items of content is disrupted:

continuing to advance through the first playlist for at least the first stream;

caching a first item of content of the first playlist into memory prior to reaching a last item of content of the first playlist;

linking the last item of content of the first playlist to the first item of content of the first playlist in order to repeat at least one of the items of content in the first stream; and

delivering the first stream to the at least one distribution point for delivery to the at least one client terminal.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

checking for new items of content of the first playlist as delivery of each of the items of content of the first playlist finishes; and

if there are new items of content of the first playlist, resuming normal delivery of the first stream.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the items of content include audio content.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the items of content include video content.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

providing metadata associated with the content; and

integrating the metadata with at least the first stream.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the metadata includes content duration information.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the metadata includes content time remaining information.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one client terminal includes at least one of a computer, a mobile device, a microprocessor-based device, a portable digital assistant, and a network enabled receiver.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein at least the first stream is transmitted at a rate that is matched to a rate of play at the at least one client terminal.

21.   (Currently Amended) A ~~stream source~~ content delivery system, comprising:

means for periodically querying a database for multiple playlists ~~corresponding to multiple stations~~, wherein a playlist is associated with multiple content items;

means for receiving the multiple playlists from the database;

means for locally storing content items;

means for analyzing the received playlists to determine content items that are already stored by the means for locally storing content ~~item~~ items and content items to be retrieved;

means for retrieving content items to be retrieved;

means for concatenating associated content items into a first stream for at least a first ~~station~~ playlist ~~based on a first playlist corresponding to the first stations~~;

~~means for buffering data;~~

~~means for providing the means for buffering data with the first stream;~~

means for receiving a request for the first ~~streams~~ stream;

means for delivering the first stream ~~from the means for buffering data~~ to at least one distribution point in response to the request, for delivery from the distribution point to at least one client terminal; and

~~when~~if retrieval of new content items is disrupted:

means for continuing to advance through the first playlist for at least the first stream;

means for caching a first content item of the first playlist into memory prior to reaching a last content item of the first playlist;

means for repeating at least the first content item of the first playlist in the first stream after the last content item of the first playlist is reached; and

means for delivering the first stream to the at least one distribution point for delivery to the at least one client terminal.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

means for checking for new content items of the first playlist as delivery of each of the content items of the first playlist finishes; and

means for resuming normal delivery of the first stream if there are new content items of the first playlist.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the content items include audio content.

25.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the content items include video content.

26.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

means for integrating metadata associated with the content items within at least the first streams.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the metadata includes content duration information.

28.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the metadata includes content time remaining information.

29.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one client terminal includes at least one of a computer, a mobile device, a microprocessor-based device, a portable digital assistant, and a network enabled receiver.

30.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein a transmission rate of at least the first streams is matched to a rate of play at the at least one client terminal.

31.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

for each playlist, providing a buffer of a plurality of buffers with the stream of content corresponding to the playlist,

wherein transmitting the requested one or more streams of content includes transmitting the requested one or more streams of content from one or more of the plurality of buffers.

32.   (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

for at least the first playlist, providing one or more buffers with the first stream,

wherein delivering the first stream includes delivering the first stream from the one or more buffers.

33.   (New) The content delivery system of claim 21, further comprising:

means for buffering data; and

means for providing the means for buffering data with the first stream,

wherein the means for delivering the first stream delivers the first stream from the means for buffering data.

34.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising removing cached content items from the local disk.

35.   (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising removing locally stored items of content.

36.   (New) The content delivery system of claim 21, further comprising means for removing locally stored content items.

37.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising synchronizing the one or more streams of content with one or more schedules.

38.   (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising synchronizing the first stream with a first schedule.

39.   (New) The content delivery system of claim 21, further comprising means for synchronizing the first stream with a first schedule.